

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-13 have been cancelled in this reply, in addition to previously cancelled claims 14 and 15. New claims 16-26 have been added. No new subject matter has been added by the amendments. Claims 16 and 26 are independent claims; claims 17-25 are dependent claims, depending directly or indirectly on independent claim 16.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,442,390 ("Hooper"). Additionally, claims 1-13 were rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hooper in view of further references, namely, European Patent Application No. 94117943.4 ("Sanpei"), European Patent Application No. 92301484.9 ("Acampora"), U.S. Patent No. 5,870,390 ("Campanella"), U.S. Patent No. 4,835,733 ("Powell"), U.S. Patent No. 5,642,498 ("Kutner"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,828,901 ("O'Toole"). Claims 1-13 have however been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, so these rejections are now moot. To the extent that these rejections apply to the newly added claims, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Claimed Invention

As recited in claim 16, the claimed invention relates to a receiver/decoder with at least one port for receiving messages, at least one application module, and a memory including a buffer section and a FIFO section. There is further buffer controller that may write a message appearing at a port into the buffer section and, after complete writing of the message, to read the message out to an application module in response to a control signal from the latter. In addition, there is a FIFO controller that may write a message appearing at a port into the FIFO section and to read the message from the FIFO section out to an application module or to a further port without awaiting complete writing of the message.

Depending on the needs of an application module and/or on the nature of the message, this enables a message to: (1) be read out to a port without awaiting complete writing of the message, or (2) be read out to an application module either after complete writing of the message or without awaiting complete writing of the message.

Applied References

Hooper teaches a system for interactively viewing videos, in which a selected video is transmitted as a plurality of frames for playback on a viewing device. The system includes a memory buffer for storing a segment of a selected one of the videos. The memory buffer includes a write pointer and a read pointer. Servers are provided for writing and reading video data of the selected video to and from the memory buffer, independently, at locations indicated by the write and read pointers to transfer the selected video to the viewing device.

Kutner teaches a system for simultaneous display of multiple video windows on a display. The system receives a primary video signal (J) that is stored in a first buffer memory (640) and a number of secondary signals (K, L, and M) that pass through FIFOs (621, 622, 623) before being stored in a second buffer memory (641). The content of the buffer memories (640, 641) is then output for display.

Other cited references are believed to lack sufficient relevancy with regard to the present claims.

Claimed Invention v. Applied References

As can clearly be appreciated, there are a number of salient differences between the present invention and Hooper and Kutner. The first and most obvious difference is that where the present invention is highly flexible, the prior art is rigid in its architecture. In both Hooper and Kutner, the data has one, and only one, way through the apparatus, *i.e.*, the data is received, stored in a FIFO and/or a buffer, and output for display. The present invention however, vastly increases flexibility in that the incoming messages may be read out to ports or application modules. For example, claim 16 recites, "depending on the needs of an application module or on the nature of the message, a message at the ports to be read out to the further port without awaiting complete writing of the message and to be read out to the application modules either after complete writing of the message or without awaiting complete writing of the message."

A further difference is that the present invention is able to handle different kinds of messages in different ways. It is thus able to handle different kinds of applications, such as for example modems and card readers. This is something that the prior art clearly does not even contemplate, dealing **only** with video signals.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no way that Hooper and Kutner can be combined, if indeed there is any motivation to do so, that will render something even close to the present invention. A combination would, as already detailed, lack both flexibility and the capability to handle more than one kind of message depending on the nature of the message. Applicants further put forth that there is nothing in either Hooper or Kutner that suggest these features or their advantages. A person skilled in the art will thus readily appreciate that claim 16 is patentable over Hooper and/or Kutner.

Claims 17-25 depend, directly or ultimately, on claim 16 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given in support of claim 16 hereinbefore. The Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of claims 17-25.

Claim 26 is a broadcast system comprising a receiver/decoder according to claim 16 and a transmission system for transmitting messages to the receiver/decoder. The Applicants believe that this claim is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 16, and thus respectfully request allowance of claim 26.

III. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 11345/017001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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